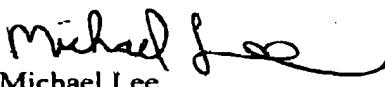


of a focus ring. Lenz, in column 2, lines 4 to 11, states that a focus ring improves equipotential field uniformity across a substrate surface, by providing a focus ring formed of a suitable dielectric material. Since 99% pure aluminum is not a dielectric and since the sacrificial surface in Wicker et al. is a focus ring, Lenz teaches away from forming the sacrificial substrate holder of 99% aluminum, as recited in claims 1 and 25.

For these reasons, the applicant believes the proposed amendments make claims 1 and 25 allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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